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HB 1042
House Human Services
January 4, 2023, 11:15

Good morning Chairman Weisz, and members of the House Human Services Committee, I am Kirby Kruger, Director of Disease Control and Forensic Pathology with the Department of Health and Human Services (Department). I appear before you in support of House Bill 1042, which was introduced at the request of the Department.

This bill updates language related to the classification of deaths in infants and children. With this bill, sections 11-19.1-11, 11-19.1-13, and 11-19.1-16 of the North Dakota Century Code will be updated with the removal of the terminology "sudden infant death syndrome" (SIDS) which will be replaced by "unexplained sudden death in infant or child with or without intrinsic or extrinsic factors, or both". This terminology is consistent with the recommendations of the National Association of Medical Examiners, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health. These professional groups have concluded that the term SIDS does not accurately reflect the nature of many of the pediatric deaths that occur and that the updated terminology is a more accurate classification of these unfortunate deaths.

This concludes my testimony. I would be happy to try to answer any questions the committee may have. Thank you.